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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only)

Activities of Tunisia regarding geographical names over the period 2012-2017

Summary**

The report provides information on the main activities of Tunisia on the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Those activities have been, principally, the creation of a national commission on toponymy and the holding of a regional toponymic training course. Tunisia has also participated in events relating to geographical names. Set out below is further information.

Creation of a national commission on toponymy

Following the recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and to solve geographical names issues in the country, a national commission on toponymy was created through Decree No. 1299 of 26 February 2013.

Regional training course

Organized by the National Mapping and Remote Sensing Centre, in collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the Statistics Division, a regional workshop on geographical names was held from 12 to 16 January 2015 in Tunis for the members of the National Commission on Toponymy. Experts from Algeria, Burkina Faso and Botswana participated.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Naima Friha (Tunisia), Vice-Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/53/CRP.53.

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Participation in national and international toponymic meetings

Presentations and statements on the importance of the standardization of geographical names and the role of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names were made during the following events:

At the national level

- Seventh edition of the GeoTunis congress, held from 8 to 12 April 2013, on the geographical infrastructure for establishing sustainable development
- Eleventh edition of the GeoTunis congress, held from 25 to 29 April 2017, on the role of geographic information systems, geospatial applications and geographical names in achieving sustainable development

At the regional and international levels and in the framework of cooperation with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management

- Sixth Arab Conference on Geographical Names, held from 10 to 13 July 2012 in Amman
- Sixth meeting of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistical Offices, held from 30 November to 2 December 2012 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire
- Twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held from 28 April to 2 May 2014 in New York
- Third High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, held from 22 to 24 October 2014 in Beijing
- Preparatory meeting for the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, held from 10 to 12 December 2014 in Tunis

Participation in meetings of the Working Groups

Tunisia was represented at the following meetings:

- Meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, held from 4 to 6 July 2013 in Seoul
- Meeting of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, held from 10 to 12 September 2015 in Copenhagen
- Joint meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, the Working Group on Publicity and Funding and the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, held from 19 to 22 April 2017 in Innsbruck, Austria

Other work

- Tunisia contributed to the forty-fourth, forty-eighth and fiftieth editions of the information bulletins of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- Tunisia participated in teleconferences held by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, at which issues relating to the Group's activities were discussed, with a special focus on the Group's new operational modalities and relationship with the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management